

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 7, 1998

LB 512, 695, 1104, 1120

has been passed and signed by the Governor. So you may be wondering why I am suggesting that maybe it is necessary and maybe it isn't because I am talking about a bill that has already been passed. The reason this amendment is necessary because of bills that are in the pipeline or at the Governor's desk, and I don't know whether he's going to sign them or not, although I think he's told some people he wasn't. What this says is that the monies that we distribute under LB 695, that's Senator Cudaback's bill, to provide assistance or state aid to counties through the jail fund and through the road miles distribution formula, and 1120, my priority bill, to go to fire districts, that the dollars, that the state dollars that we would distribute become restricted funds. So that means that the dollars will, in fact, produce property tax relief. If we send state dollars out, they aren't just going to get spent. They are going to produce property tax relief because they are going to be accountable receipts. They are going to be within the lid. They are not going to be monies that can simply be spent without reduction of property taxes. Now if 695 doesn't survive the Governor's veto pen or we don't override the veto, we still haven't done any harm because the underlying law, that is referred to in the amendment, simply isn't there. If the same thing happens with LB 1120, again, no harm done, and to alert you, we also have filed the same kind of an amendment to LB 512. That is a bill that is now on Final Reading. That is Senator Will's bill, but that would distribute monies to the counties or assistance with juvenile incarcerations. But I think the same principle applies. If we are going to provide additional state aid with the hope of property tax reductions, we need to have those dollars that we distribute be accountable receipts so that we have reasonable assurance that it doesn't just result in increased local spending at our expense, that it does, in fact, produce the results that we want and are seeking, and that is local property tax relief. That's the amendment. Maybe we won't need it. I sincerely hope that we do, but this is a precautionary amendment I think that we will, at least I hope we will find that those are appropriate bills and that they will become law in the state. And if they do become law, we need this amendment to ensure that we get property tax relief.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Is there discussion of the Wickersham amendment? Seeing none, Senator